

'Charley's Aunt' Hailed Natural For Jack Benny

Story Bought
For Release
Next Season

A SCOOP

Is Now In Its
14th Week Of
New York Run

MOVIE-TONE CITY—There is going to be no chance-taking on production under Consent Deere operation. This studio is going to weigh everything in advance and apply everything possible to make each and every vehicle a maximum ticket-seller. Inasmuch as speed will be no unimportant element in the merchandising of next season's wares, the studio is concentrating on properties or themes with which potential ticket-buyers are acquainted.

NOTHING better can illustrate than that Zanuck's announcement this week that this company had purchased the rights to "Charley's Aunt" unquestionably the outstanding straight comedy bit of the current New York Broadway season. And this vehicle, Zanuck has let it be known, has been purchased for none other than Jack Benny, radio's No. 1 star. What could be greater box office than the combination of "Charley's Aunt" and Jack Benny? Even before preparations are made for its filming, the public knows that this makes a rare entertainment gem.

"CHARLEY'S Aunt" stands in a class by itself as a comedy. Time has enhanced its side-splitting appeal. That is best proved by the success with which the production is now meeting at the Cort theatre in New York. As a matter of fact, it is now in its 14th week and going strong, with an extremely healthy advance sale. In the days when the stock companies flourished in this country, there was not a season when "Charley's Aunt" was not produced by every unit.

THE fact is that "Charley's Aunt" is timeless. It is better entertainment today than ever. Its appeal to the women is as great as ever. And with Jack Benny, the "Charley's Aunt," Zanuck will make for next season will be a top-grosser, if not the biggest grosser of next season. And on that the writer will bet real money. Fact is this writer can personally testify to the box office value of this vehicle, having handled its exploitation on the radio occasions, when it was made in silent film with Sidney Chaplin, who featured a cloying of stock companies for whom we were publicity director.

"CHARLEY'S Aunt" is box office insurance and with Jack Benny it is a guarantee that new records will be made. Yes, this can be said this far ahead of production. Just how ideal it is for Jack Benny purposes was mirrored in the fact that many wires and letters congratulated the studio on an acquisition of the screen rights. In fact, it has been a long time since a story

Continued on Page 3A

'The Great American Broadcast' Under Way!

MOVIE-TONE CITY—Monday is another red-letter day at this studio, for it will mark the start of production on the biggest musical this studio has undertaken since the memorable "Alexander's Ragtime Band." "The Great American Broadcast" will start Monday, according to announcement made this week by Production Chief Zanuck.



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'Manhunt' And 'Belle Starr' Nearer Cameras

"The Outlaw" At right, Jack Beutel, the "find," other than Billy, the Kid. Centre, is the character star, Walter Huston. Beutel is a Dallas lad making his screen debut in this Howard Hughes special on which filming has just been completed. Jane Russell, another newcomer, has the feminine lead. Tom Mitchell has a featured role. Hughes not only is the producer, but he also has directed "The Outlaw."

Both Are Slated To Be Started In March

Word from the studio at press-time stated that "Manhunt" and "Belle Starr" would be sent before the cameras in March.

The latter is an all-color special that has been in preparation for more than a year.

Both await casting. Negotiations are still pending for stellar players to appear in these two vehicles. However, none of the players sought will be available until some time in March.

This week all the musical numbers for "Road To Rio," the musical in Technicolor, were completed by Hermes Pan, who directed them. The story was directed by Irving Cummings who made "Down Argentine Way" earlier in the season.

Reports on "Road To Rio" from those who have viewed the "rushes" are very promising. These state that not only Carmen Miranda, but Alice Faye and Don Ameche give surprisingly fine performances. Ameche has a dual role. Not only does she sing and dance, but la Miranda has an important acting role, that of a Rio night-club entertainer in love with Ameche.

Mack Gordon and Harry Warren, who wrote "Down Argentine Way," furnished the original tunes introduced in "Road To Rio" by Miss Faye, Ameche and Carmen Miranda.

Three other productions were nearing completion this week. They were as follows: "A Very Young Lady," with Jane Withers, Nancy Kelly, John Sutton, Richard Clayton, Janet Beecher, June Carlson and others. Harold Schuster was directing.

"Dead Men Tell," the final

Continued on Page 2A

This heavy-budget musical represents the most ambitious undertaking of this studio, for it has been almost two years in preparation.

Certainly no other musical boasted a stronger cast of musical comedy names than will "The Great American Broadcast."

A cavalcade of radio, "The Great American Broadcast" will be directed by Archie Mayo, with Kenneth Macgowan as associate producer, and Mack Gordon and Harry Warren furnishing the original tunes.

But, there will be many tunes of the calibre that made such outstanding hits of not only

"Alexander's Ragtime Band," but this season's "Tin Pan Alley."

There is no question that "The Great American Broadcast" will start where "Tin Pan Alley" left off—from the box office angle.

Not only will Alice Faye in this story be revealed at a fast pace, but it will have romance, comedy and suspense as well as music, with the surprise element very prominent.

The cast at press-time included Alice Faye and John Payne, who did the love-making in "Tin Pan Alley"; Milton Berle, who scored a personal hit in "Tall, Dark And Handsome"; Jack Oakie, Cesar Romero, the famous and imitable Ink Spots and other radio headlines.

Samuel Hoffenstein applied the finishing touches to the script.

Upon the completion of "The Great American Broadcast," Miss Faye will take a well-earned vacation which she intends to spend in a tour of South America.

John Payne had his option lifted this week.

Berle will return to the studio right after he takes part in the "Tall, Dark And Handsome" broadcast on the Kate Smith Hour from New York, next Friday night.

Cesar Romero is completing his final Clio Kid story, "Ride On, Vagabond." The Ink Spots are en route to the Coast, filling engagements on their way out.

ONE small clothes hamper contained all of the wardrobe worn by the players in "Alexander's Ragtime Band" during filming. With the exception of Marjorie Rameau who appears in two different situations, most of the others changed costumes. Miss Tierney wears one simple cotton dress, the little the worse for dirt and wear, as do Miss Patterson and Zeffie Tilbury.



Special to New Dynam

Howard Hughes Finishes Shooting On "The Outlaw"

HOLLYWOOD—"Shooting" has been completed on the first Howard Hughes production, "The Outlaw," for release by this company.

Next week Producer-Director Hughes expects to have a "rough-finished" print ready for screening to 20th Century-Fox executives.

"The Outlaw" will be handled as a separate picture having no bearing on the regular 20th Century-Fox K-8 product.

Dramatizing the adventures, romantic and otherwise of Billy, the Kid, "The Outlaw" is patterned for release late this quarter. The exact date will be determined at a conference among Messrs. Kent, Hughes and Vober next week.

Much has been printed ament "The Outlaw." In the first place, Hughes is more confident than ever that in the two leads—Jack Beutel, who plays Billy, the Kid, and Jane Russell, who is his half-bred sweetheart—he has "two new stars." He is so enthusiastic over their performances and so confident of public and exhibitors' reaction that he is going ahead with plans for their next picture.

Hughes plans to team the two in future vehicles. However, in "The Outlaw" the two major character roles are played by such seasoned troupers as Walter Huston and Tom Mitchell.

'A Yank In RAF' Goes Into Production Next Month

Story on Page 2A

'Blood And Sand' Unit In 'hird Week In Mexico

Studio Is
Elated With
First Scenes

CAST NOTES

Company To
Return Early
In February

Exclusive to New Dynamic

MEXICO CITY—"The Blood and Sand" company will spend at least four weeks here. Plans now are for the unit not to leave until the first week in February. This will enable Director Rouben Mamoulian to shoot in and around Mexico City a number of exteriors that had been planned to be shot at Movietone City. Bad weather and indications that the rest of this month may find southern California unseasonably drenched constitute the reason why the stay here has been prolonged.

THIS will also entail a considerable saving in production cost, for it will eliminate the expense of building several big sets to match those on which "The Blood and Sand" company has been working for the past two months. Director Mamoulian has been flying the "rushes" daily to Mr. Zanuck in Hollywood. What is very pleasing with the whole has been "shot" to date, judging from the tone of wires he has sent back to the company here.

THE re-teamsing of Director Mamoulian and Star Tyrone Power is resulting in results. The former directed the latter in the much-praised "Mark of Zorro," which, by the way, is smashing all records for 20th Century-Fox pictures here in Mexico City. The presence of two of the stars in that production—Powell and Linda Darnell—and Director Mamoulian has done much to maximize interest in and business on "The Mark of Zorro."

UNQUESTIONABLY the most realistic and dramatic bullfights ever reflected on the screens will be one of the big features of "Blood and Sand," which is being entirely made in Technicolor. Incidentally, this is the first picture that an American producer has made all in color in Mexico, a fact that is getting "Blood and Sand" much wider advance publicity in this country. Armillita, woman's greatest bullfighter, has a featured role in this production. He has been breaking Mexican bullfight attendance records in Mexico City.

"BLOOD AND SAND" should set new company earnings high marks not only on the Domestic market, but in Latin America as well. Mexican Manager Gus Mohme already is on its way with the statement that this picture will attain a box office mark that will be something to shoot at in years to come. Not only Armillita, but other popular bullfight ring stars will appear with Tyrone Power, who as a torreador, has a spectacular, dramatic romance.

THERE still remain a number of important roles to be filled in the cast that had appeared in "Blood and Sand." The third member of the triangle has been seen in her identity, has not yet been officially disclosed. This is expected to be done any day. Most of her scenes are those to be filmed at Movietone City.

JOHN CARRADINE reforms in "Blood and Sand." He has the role of El Nacional, a man who is ready to die for his life for his friend, the torreador, who in this case is Tyrone Power. This is his fourth sympathetic role in a year. He played the tragic, itinerant preacher in the prize picture of 1940, "The Grapes of Wrath" and in "Western Union" and "Cad Hams," too, he has played the understanding and self-sacrificing friend.

I AIRD CREGAR, who is getting excellent notices for his performance in "Hudson's Bay," according to word reaching here via the studio, will have a drastically different role in "Blood and Sand." He will play a popish sophisticate—a sort of Alexander Woodcock, the bullring, but with a pronounced difference. In fact, his is the heavy role as the authority on all things pertaining to bull-fighting whose utterances, both public and private, unlike those of a Woodcock, are on sale to the highest bidder.

"Belle Starr" Will Start In Early March

Three Other
K-8 Vehicles
Completing!

Continued from Page 1A

K-8 Charlie Chan story, with Sidney Toler, Sen Yung, Sheila Ryan, Katharine Aldridge and others. Harry Chasichin is directing this one.

"Ride On, Vaquero," the final K-8 Cisco Kid story, with Cesar Romero, Chris-Pin Martin, Mary Beth Hughes, Lynn Roberts and Ben Carter. Herbert L. Leeds was directing.

Associate Producer Robert T. Kane had his first productions in London, on the "Young Lady" nearing completion, and another, "Blood and Sand." Announcement was made this week that this was seeking a story for Annabella (Mrs. Tyrone Power). Kane would make this one, with Harold Schuster directing. If such a story is found, Kane will re-unite Annabella, Kane and Schuster, for that trio turned out "Wings Of The Morning" several seasons ago. Opposite Annabella in that first British-made all-color special appeared Henry Fonda.

"Private Nurse" will be made ahead of "The Cowboy And The Lady" in which George Montgomery and Mary Beth Hughes are cast. Both are on Sol Wurtzell's schedule. However, the latter may not be made in time for release until next season.

In "Private Nurse" Brenda Joyce is slated to play the title role. David Burton has been signed to direct it. It will not be started, however, until Wurtzell's return from his South American tour. He is not due back at the studio until early in March.

"Breach Of Discipline," another Kane picture scheduled for possible release next season, will not be started until the Spring. In this drama of women in the medical profession, Anne Kelly has been cast for the feminine lead. No other players have been cast.

Within the next two months "Murder Among Friends," "Sleepers West" and "Scotland Yard" will probably be shipped to New York. All three are now in the cutting rooms. In "Murder Among Friends" appear John Hubbard, Marjorie Weaver, Cobina Wright, Jr., Sidney Blackmer and others. Ray McCarey directed.

"Ride On, Vaquero"

Among other things, Mary Beth Hughes proves herself quite efficient in handling a gun, as this scene from the final K-8 Cisco Kid story proves. No wonder Cesar Romero is amused. Herbert L. Leeds, who mugged "Romance Of The Rio Grande," is directing "Ride On Vaquero."



"A Yank In RAF" New Title For "Eagle Flies"

Henry Fonda Has Title
Role In Timely Vehicle

STARTS NEXT MONTH

One Of This Season's
Late Arrives; Setting Cast

MOVIEZONE CITY—"A Yank In The R.A.F." is the title of the new and permanent title selected this week for dramatic special formerly known as "The Eagle Flies Again." Zanuck announced that it will go into production next month. Henry Fonda is scheduled to play the title role. One of the other roles had been definitely set at press-time, but casting was getting the personal attention of the production chief.

THE part of the American Eagle, flying and fighting for England, is unquestionably one of the best entrusted Fonda, whose characterization of Tom Ford in "The Grapes Of Wrath" earned him high mention in the lists of some 500 newspaper critics. In "A Yank In The R.A.F.," however, he will have a role entirely foreign from any he has played to date. He will have stellar support in this production.

HENRY KING, one of the best known and ablest amateur airmen in this country, has been entrusted with the direction of "A Yank In The R.A.F." This will be a fast-moving, action drama with plenty of romance. It will dramatize the daring and exploits of a little-known group of American aviators, known as Eagles, who have been playing a major role in England's fight for its very existence. Three Governments—the U. S. A., Canada and England—have co-operated in the studio in the preparation of this story.

"A YANK IN THE R.A.F." will be one of the major releases of the last half of the 1940-41 season. It will be a costly picture. A huge sum has been already invested in planes that will be wrecked. Arrangements have been made with the British Government for use of

actual aerial battles over London. This is film that the British have adamantly refused to allow to be shown. The good offices of this Government were utilized to get this exciting footage for "A Yank In The R.A.F."

FONDA, by the way, has recovered from his recent eye operation. Rehearsals for "A Yank In The R.A.F." will start upon the selection of the other principals. By the way, Fonda's

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Studio Takes Up Option On Five Players

Charlotte
Greenwood
Re-Signed

PAYNE, TOO

Sutton And
Carradine
Included!

MOVIEZONE CITY—It was option time at the studios this week. Charlotte Greenwood, who scores again in "Tall, Dark and Handsome," will be in a list of five principals who had their options exercised. The others included John Payne, whose next appearance will be in "The Great American Broadcast"; John Carradine who has finished playing roles in Zane Grey's "Western Union" and "Tobacco Road"; John Sutton who is currently working in "Love Withers" "A Very Young Lady" playing opposite to Nancy Kelly, and Robert Conway.

GERTRUDE ASTOR, whom theatregoers will remember as one of the top stars of silent film days, appears in "Tobacco Road." Her days of screen glory have long past. But, she still manages to keep busy. She has joined the ranks of the little-known stunt women. She is teamed with Harvey Parry, a stunt man, in doing automobile stunt riding in the dramatization of the Broadway stage hit.

C. GARDNER SULLIVAN, noted writer, is on the lot. He is deep in the work of writing a screenplay for one of next season's supposed bigger specials, "Lucky Baldwin." The latter is a dramatization of the adventurously colorful life of the famous California promoter. The biography was written by C. B. Glascock. James M. Cain wrote a treatment. Harry Joe Brown has been assigned as associate producer for "Lucky Baldwin" which is planned to be started next Summer. Sullivan wrote the screenplays for "Union Pacific," "The Buccaneer," and "Northwest Mounted Police."

EDOUARDO CANSINO, renowned Spanish dancer and father of the screen star, Rita Hayworth, taught Cesar Romero and Mary Beth Hughes a couple of Spanish dances which they execute in the next Cisco Kid story, "Ride On, Vaquero." This will wind up this season's group of Cisco Kid stories. Herbert L. Leeds, who made "Romance On The Rio Grande," is directing "Ride On, Vaquero," a Wurtzell picture.

WITHIN the next two weeks the first assignment of Lou Ostrow, noted executive, will be announced. He was recently named chief of the screen staff. One of the industry's veterans, Ostrow was associated for nine years as producer at MGM and prior to that was an independent producer. He has a long list of successful box office vehicles to his credit.

THE studio has enlarged the New York street set which will be used in the next Mexican Broadcast. This is one of the permanent sets. But, for the big star-movie has been spent in rehabilitating it. Most of the improvement has been on building new foundations.

Group Theatre Founder Is Put Under Contract

Reported At
The Studio
This Week

STAGE ACE

Jean Renoir
Is Signed As
A Director

MOVIEZONE CITY — Two more important creative personalities were added to the company's roster this week. Following on the heels of announcement that Jack Benny had been signed to a joint contract with Paramount, the new acquisitions leave no doubt as to the speed with which the studio is organizing itself for operation under the Consent Decree and as a means of eliminating any element of chance in production next season. The new acquisitions are Harold Clurman, founder of the Group Theatre of New York, and Jean Renoir, famous French writer-director.

CLURMAN has been signed to become an associate producer. In the 11 years since he began his work with the New York Group Theatre, he launched the works of such successful playwrights as Clifford Odets, Sidney Kingsley, Irvin Shaw and William Saroyan. He also "discovered" such stage personalities as Franchot Tone, John Garfield, and others who later obtained fame on the screen. He also established Frances Farmer, Luther Adler and others on successful careers.

HOWEVER, up until now Clurman has had no experience in the production of motion pictures. Consequently, for the next few months he will spend his time observing the company's production process and in studying the technique of picture-making. As head of the Group Theatre he has staged some of the most successful box office dramas seen on Broadway in the past six years. It was his directorial genius that elevated the Group Theatre from a "little theatre" group to the outstanding Broadway stage production organization since the founding of the Theatre Guild in New York.

JEAN RENOIR, although from France, is better known to film people and to motion picture theatregoers than Clurman. The former will be recalled as the director of last season's prize-winning picture, "Grande Illusion," on the story of which he collaborated. However, that picture, produced in France in 1937, did not reach these shores until the 1939-40 season. Since then, in France, Renoir has directed "Human Beast," "The Dregs" and "The Marseillaise," all in French.

RENOIR arrived in this country about two weeks ago. His association with this company is the first with an American producing organization. The producer will be providing his services for a period of one year with options. Just what his first assignment will be has not yet been determined. However, it is certain that his directorial wizardry will not be displayed until next season, for his assignments on all remaining 1940-41 (K-8) vehicles have already been given out by Mr. Zanuck.

"Tobacco Road"

This photographic reproduction of a scene from Zanuck's picturization of the stage smash-hit, "Tobacco Road," is beautiful enough for framing. It gives you a good idea of the scenic background of this comedy drama that prize-winning Director John Ford has been megaphoning. At left, Elizabeth Patterson as Ma Lester, and at right, Charley Grapewin as Jeter Lester. Elsewhere in this supplement to New Dynamo is an entire page of pictorial and news data on "Tobacco Road."



2 More Stories Purchased For Coming Season

"Benjamin
Blake" Is A
Prize Novel

OUT IN MAR.

MOVIEZONE CITY — Two more important story properties for production next season were purchased by this studio this week. One of them is Edison Marshall's new novel, "Benjamin Blake," which the Literary Guild has named as its selection for the month of March. The story deals with romantic adventure in the 18th century. William Perlberg, associate producer, has been assigned to produce the screen version.

THE other purchase of the week was "Lazy Galahad," which is an original story by Joseph Schank. The story will probably be released under another title. It deals with a Maine blacksmith who is picked as the nation's most unsuccessful man by the operator of a success school. Nunnally Johnson, who is currently busy with "Tobacco Road" which he also adapted, will write the screen play and also be associate producer for "Lazy Galahad."

INCIDENTALLY, word from Chicago to the studio stressed the continued strength of Sonja Henie's popularity. The skating champion has just completed an engagement in the Windy City that grossed \$300,000 in the single week. She opens in New York's Madison Square Garden next week, with the advance sale reportedly bigger than that of last year, her record touring season. She will be back here late in February, but "Sun Val-

ley," her next season's musical special, on which there will be several months' shooting, following a month or more of rehearsals, cannot go before the cameras until the late Spring.

PA LUPINO will head the cast in one of next season's m-f vehicles. The identity of this production, however, will not be revealed until another month or two. Her contract calls for her appearance in one picture per year for this company. The contract for her services is a joint one with Warner Brothers.

MEANTIME, "Sioux City," based on a novel by J. Hyatt Downing, another of next season's big specials is being written into a screenplay. It is being paid for the screen rights to "Charley's Aunt" which was written by Brandon Thomas. It has been put on the screen on three occasions, with the Warner Brothers' version, starring Sidney Chaplin the most successful, for it was the No. 1 box office picture of that season and enabled WB to clear a menacing financial hurdle that at the time stood in its path of progress. That was back in 1925. Bob Kane made it more recently in England, as a quota vehicle. In 1930 it was made as a talkie with Charles Ruggles. Each of the American films was made under a seven-year license on the expiration of which the rights reverted to the original owners.

BEING readied for "shooting" in the late Spring and next Summer too, are: "Sun Valley" with Sonja Henie, Glenn Miller and his band and others, with Milton Spering as associate producer; "Green Entry," based on an original story by F. Ruth Howard; "How Green Was My Valley," "Down to the Sea in Ships," "Brooklyn Bridge," "Down on the Water," "Lucky Wild Geese Calling," and "Wild Geese Calling." All of these demand considerable exterior shooting not made possible until the warmer weather sets in, or cannot be made until the stars wanted for major roles are available.

'Charley's Aunt' Purchase A Big Story "Scoop"

Indicates
Bigness Of
Set Plans

OTHER NEWS

Continued from Page 1A
purchase resulted in as great a manifestation of enthusiasm.

A HUGE amount has been paid for the screen rights to "Charley's Aunt" which was written by Brandon Thomas. It has been put on the screen on three occasions, with the Warner Brothers' version, starring Sidney Chaplin the most successful, for it was the No. 1 box office picture of that season and enabled WB to clear a menacing financial hurdle that at the time stood in its path of progress. That was back in 1925. Bob Kane made it more recently in England, as a quota vehicle. In 1930 it was made as a talkie with Charles Ruggles. Each of the American films was made under a seven-year license on the expiration of which the rights reverted to the original owners.

THE Location Department right now is exploring the nation for sites for "shooting" of exteriors for important vehicles that will not go into work until the Summer, for they will not be released until next season. Among them is "Sun Valley" which will be made at the Idaho resort; "Wild Geese Calling," much of which will be "shot" up in Alaska; "Sioux City" which will be made in Utah and several other places, and "Down to the Sea in Ships," which has been in preparation for more than two years.

Four Units To Detour Chance At Locations

Will Go To
Florida And
So. Arizona

MEXICO, TOO

Preparations
Under Way For
Next Season

MOVIEZONE CITY — In the next several months at least four companies will have gone to various locations for exterior shots. This prospect offers an alternate chance and mean a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Freakish weather for southern California and the aim for authenticity are back of the decision that it is advantageous to send units to exact story locales rather than run the risk entailed in California weather this quarter.

THE "Blood and Sand" company is now in its second week at Mexico City. It will remain there for some time, for all of the exteriors, including the dramatic bullfights, will be staged in that city and various other parts of Mexico. Robert Power, Linda Darnell and other players, as well as Rouben Mamoulian are among those who are working in Mexico on this third Technicolor special of the 1940-41 season.

IN February — the exact date has not yet been set — a company will be sent to Florida.

"Miami," a Technicolor musical, sent by Robert Power, who is currently busy on a loan at Paramount; officials at Paramount, borrowed from Universal, but who can not start work on this picture until he has finished an assignment at RKO; Betty Grable and Don Ameche.

Charlotte Greenwood and Jack Haley are in the all-star cast. But not all of these will go to Miami. Much of the work at the latter resort will be of a background nature, with a "shooting" crew there right now. Walter Lang will direct "Miami."

"NIGHT SURGEON" is slated to be made at the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Fla. Permission for production of exteriors there has been granted by the U. S. Navy Department. The story deals with efforts to ascertain ways and means of enabling fighters to overcome the rigors of power-diving as well as fighting and flying 25,000 feet above the ground. Kenneth MacKenna is the associate producer.

"BELLE STARR," another proposed Technicolor special, will have "location" work tentatively "shooting" on this dramatization of the luckiest woman the South has known. It will take place in southern Arizona. The exact date when the unit will head for Arizona has not yet been fixed. In fact, Production Chief Zanuck is currently busy with negotiations for certain stellar performers he wants for the major roles in this production.

There's Everything In "Road To Rio"



Fastest Dancing, Hottest Romance, Catchiest Songs

This is the big "Chica, Chica, Boom, Chic" number in the next big Technicolor musical romance, "Road to Rio," that Irving ("Down Argentine Way") Cummings has completed. This and other numbers were written by Mack Gordon and Harry Warren. "Chica, Chica, Boom, Chic" is also the title of the new Latin dance introduced by Carmen Miranda.



Hot From Rio

In "Road to Rio" Carmen Miranda, who is co-starred with Alice Faye and Don Ameche (dancing the "Chica, Chica, Boom, Chic" with her above, in a wrestling sort of fashion), not only sings and dances, but she also has a principal role, a Brazilian siren. This new South American dance should become a national craze once "Road to Rio" gets under way. Hermes Pan directed the dances. She sings and dances not only "Chica, Chica, Boom, Chic," but she also vocalizes "I, Yi, Yi, Yi, Yi," which means "I Love You Very Much." The latter tune she sings in English, accompanied by her own orchestra, Banda da Lur. Alice Faye scores with a big song-hit, "Boa Noite." She also sings the novelty hit, "They Met in Rio." Ameche sings that tune in Portuguese, the language spoken in Brazil. He also has a comedy number, "The Baron Is In Conference."



Let There Be Plenty Of Light

To illuminate this enormous garden and ballroom set, which occupied all of Stage 14 at Movietone City, for one of the important sequences in "Road to Rio," required just 3,200,000 watts. The householder who complains when the 25-watt porchlight is left on overnight because it runs up the electric bill, can realize why it costs money to make pictures, particularly in Technicolor, which requires an illumination of daylight intensity. This elaborate set, which at one time was thronged with several hundred extras in evening clothes, had one purpose: to serve as a glamorous background for Alice Faye, Don Ameche and Carmen Miranda. Incidentally, in "Road to Rio" attention is being directed by the studio to the comedy hit scored by a new team, made up of S. Z. Sakell and Curt Bois. J. Carroll Naish, who scored in "Down Argentine Way," reportedly clicks just as emphatically in this musical with a Latin American background and mood. Ameche has a dual role. During half of "Road to Rio," he plays the American boy-friend of Carmen Miranda, a Rio cabaret star, and during the other half he is the "Baron Savage," a Brazilian playboy and husband of Alice Faye.

By Exclusive Wire to New Dynamic

All last-minute (as of Jan. 17) information on productions cutting before the cameras, easting, in preparation or under consideration appears on this page. It is furnished New Dynamo at press-time every Friday by direct wire from the studio. So, be guided accordingly as the studio compiles this information weekly for the exclusive information and booking guidance of New Dynamo readers.

LAZY GALAHAD. An original story by Joseph Schrank, Nunnally Johnson will write the screenplay and also be associate producer.

Previews Of Productions On The Way



"Tobacco Road"

Keep your eyes on the newspapers and magazines next month. They will be loaded with advance material on this Zanuck picturization of the most trilled-of stage hit of the century, which is now in its eighth year of its New York record-smashing engagement. Above are Charles Graepwin as Jester Lester, Marjorie Rambeau as Sister Bessie, and William Tracy as "Dude" Jester. It is their first experience in an automobile that the hill-billy evangelist has bought as a wedding present for her boy-husband, who seems quite excited—about this automotive experience. But, not Sister Bessie. Her thoughts are evidently elsewhere, judging from the nonchalance she displays in this sequence. Reports from the studio indicate that Miss Rambeau, whose last screen hit was as Fugboat Annie in "Fugboat Annie Sails Again," gives the greatest performance of her Hollywood career. Others cast include Gene Tierney, Ward Bond, Slim Summerville, Elizabeth Patterson, Grant Mitchell.



New "Find" Is At The Studio

MOVIE TONE CITY — Richard Derr, who was "discovered" by Joe Pincus' talent scouting department in New York, has reported at the studio. When "discovered" he was appearing with Joe E. Brown in the stage play, "Elmer, The Great" at Maplewood, N. J. A screentest was made of him in New York and rushed to the studio where, following a screening, instructions were issued to place him under contract.

Derr is a tall, handsome Pennsylvanian. He got his first theatre training with Jasper Deeter's repertory company at Hedegrow, near Philadelphia. He was born in Morristown, Pa. He stands six feet two inches and is 24 years old.

The studio plans to groom him for leading roles. This is his first trip to the West Coast. He never faced a motion picture camera before his screentest in New York.



Romero And Hughes In Action

Cesar Romero, who is the talk of exhibitors for his magnificent work in "Tall, Dark and Handsome," returns to characterization of the Cisco Kid in "Ride On, Vaquero." In this final release in the K-8 Cisco Kid series, he and Mary Beth Hughes do two tangos.



Love In Bloom

At right, Richard Clayton is the handsome stage actor who plays opposite Jane Withers in her really first "grown-up" story, "A Very Young Lady." At left, John Sutton.



It's Jane Withers vs. Nancy Kelly

Here are the three co-stars of "A Very Young Lady" on which Robert T. Kane is associate producer. Puzzledly and with perhaps a bit of jealousy, Nancy Kelly, right, views, certainly disapprovingly, Jane Withers' tie-fixing assistance to John Sutton. Harold Schuster, who will be recalled as the director of "Wings of the Morning," is director of "A Very Young Lady."

"The Outlaw"

Looks as if Billy, The Kid has started something in this scene from the Howard Hughes production, "The Outlaw," in which that reckless outcast is played by Jack Beutel. Here Tom Mitchell, centre, and two friends, are "shooting it out," with the results not so good so far as his two colleagues are concerned.

"Dead Men Tell" Is Completed

MOVIE TONE CITY — The final K-8 release in the Charlie Chan series—"Dead Men Tell"—has been completed. Production started Dec. 19. The cast, of course, is headed by Sidney Toler as Chan and also includes Sheila Ryan, Katharine Aldridge, Son Young, Robert Welton, George Reeves, Paul McGrath, Milton Parsons and others. Harry Lachman directed. Walter Morosco and Ralph Dietrich are the associate producers.

Human Torch In "The Outlaw"

By the time you read this supplement to New Dynamo Producer-Director Howard Hughes expected to have his first super-production for release by this company—"The Outlaw"—completed insofar as camera work is concerned. Above is Jane Russell, who plays the part of the half-breed girl with whom Billy, The Kid falls in love. The latter role is played by Jack Beutel, whom Producer Hughes believes will be one of this season's "finds."

Pave The Way For "Western Union"



Wires Across The Nation This panorama pictures the stringing out of the first Western Union wires across the wilderness of a new empire. Those who have seen the "rushes" agree with President S. K. Kent that this production constitutes one of Hollywood's proudest achievements. Word from the studio this week announced the world premiere of this Technicolor special at the Roxy Theatre in New York on Friday, Jan. 31. It is down for national release late in February.



It Was a Great Day For The Cornhuskers

These natives of Omaha, Neb., had real reason to rejoice. It opened up a new empire. This is one of the many big scenes in this elaborate picture-ization of the late Zane Grey's last and greatest story, "Western Union." Fritz Feld directed. It boasts a cast of several thousands and was four months in "shooting." However, as far back as a year ago the studio prepared for the production. The screen rights were purchased after a reading of proof-sheets, before the novel was placed on sale. It enjoyed a vast circulation and still ranks among the most popular novels. Replete with action, drama, suspense and romance, "Western Union" dramatizes the trials and tribulations of those brave men who, despite seemingly impossible obstacles, threaded an entire nation. Harry Joe Brown was associate producer. In this story there is fighting, intrigue, murder, privation and Indian sequences that have brought highest praise.

Technicolor officials are on record as saying that this is "the most beautiful color picture ever produced." Mr. Kent states that "Western Union" has all the ingredients to make it one of our greatest successes." He added: "For two seasons we have been on the lookout for a picture big enough and with mass appeal strong enough to challenge the records made by 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'. I sincerely believe that we have such a picture in 'Western Union'." The entire facilities of the Western Union organization in every city and town have been placed at the disposal of exhibitors showing this production. Complete details of the exploitation tieup with Western Union are published in the press-book. "Western Union" was produced on six different locales, with as many as three units working at as many "locations" at the same time.



Romance Aplenty Four of the principals in "Western Union" are pictured here. Left to right, they are Randolph Scott, Dean Jagger, Virginia Gilmore and Robert Young. Her performance in "Western Union" and in "Tall, Dark And Handsome" establish Miss Gilmore as a new stellar feminine personality. Robert Young was borrowed from MGM for this production.



Two-Fisted Drama It seems to be an hour of triumph for Dean Jagger in this reception scene. "Western Union" finds its greatness not only in its spectacle, love story and action, but also in its backgrounds which are characterized by none other than Mr. Kent as being "of surpassing magnificence and beauty." John Carradine, Slim Summerville, Chill Wills, Barton MacLane and many others of equal note are in the cast of some 27 principals.

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